THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Government has from time to time liberalised its policy for induction of foreign investment in all industry including textile sector. Recently 100% foreign equity through Automatic Route has been allowed for textile sector except those cases which require Industrial Licence.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal to wind up NJMC units. So far as NTC is concerned, on the basis of a unit-wise viability study, Government is considering a revised Turn Around Plan for viable subsidiaries alongwith the viable mills under them.

(d) Does not arise.

New Scheme for handloom weavers in rural areas

1504. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new scheme for handloom weavers in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Government proposes to launch a new scheme in the year 2000-2001 Currently, the scheme is being formulated. The scheme aims at providing assistance to the handloom weavers throughout the country, including weavers in the rural areas towards activities such as product development, marketing support, infrastructure support, institutional support and publicity etc.